

## Planning Rule Discussion Guide

### I. General

(Coeur d'Alene starts with this topic, Missoula and Billings end with this topic.)

1. What would a GREAT planning rule look like?
2. What works now; what concepts would you like to continue into the next planning rule?
3. What doesn't work; what concepts would you like to leave behind?

## **II. Plan Content**

(pick three from the following list of 4 questions – 30 minutes discussion per question)

4. What information and topics do you want to see in a plan?
5. Should the planning rule support the creation of a shared vision for each planning area? If so, how?
6. Should the new planning rule require standards and guidelines in all plans?
7. How should the planning rule treat national consistency and regional differences?

### **III. Process**

(pick three from the following list of questions – 30 minutes per question)

8. What suggestions do you have for making forest planning faster, simpler, more straight forward, and less expensive?
9. How often should plan revisions occur, and should the entire forest plan be redone in each revision cycle?
10. How can a new planning rule build in flexibility to adapt to changing science, information or conditions and/or incorporate new data? How should the rule deal with uncertainty?
11. What is the best way to involve stakeholders, including adjacent landowners, in the planning process?

## IV. Substantive Topics – Section A

### Restoration

12. How should the forest planning rules promote restoration of the national forest system lands?

*The process of assisting the recovery of resilience and adaptive capacity of ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. Restoration focuses on establishing the composition, structure, pattern, and ecological processes necessary to make terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems sustainable, resilient, and healthy under current and future conditions. (FSM 2020.5.)*

### Climate Change

13. How should the planning rule address potential effects of climate change?

### Water Resources and Watershed Health

14. What should the planning rule say about water resources and watershed health?

## Substantive Topics – Section B

### Diversity of Plants and Animals

15. At what landscape scale should the Forest Service analyze and provide for diversity of plants and animals (individual unit, watershed, landscape scale)?  
What are workable ways to incorporate a broader perspective?

### Contribution to Vibrant Local Economies

16. What should the planning rule say about how plans deal with the provision of goods and services that contribute to vibrant local and national economies?

### Use and Enjoyment of NFS Lands

17. What should the planning rule say about suitable uses?
18. What should the planning rule say about access, visitor facilities, and services?